Penal Code needs to be resolved as the former permits political parties and all other bodies or associations or individuals to make election expenses for any candidate without his authorisation whereas the latter prohibits it.

5. *Empowering of the Election Commission of India to fix Ceiling on Election Expenses before every general election:* Periodic revision of election expenses may continue to be done by the Central Government in consultation with the Election Commission of India as at present.

Proposals on Himachal Pradesh Cooperative Societies

*20. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals on the Himachal Pradesh Cooperative Societies are lying pending with the Reserve Bank of India for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Govt. propose to issue instructions to the RBI to accord approval to these proposals; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to the Draft Himachal Pradesh Cooperative Societies Bill, 1997 which was referred to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by Government of India in August 1997 for comments on the constitutional validity of the Bill, conflict with existing Central Laws, and deviation, if any, from existing national or central policy which may be a hindrance to enactment of uniform laws for the country. The views of the RBI have been conveyed to the Ministry of Home Affairs who have since conveyed the same to the State Government in September, 1998.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Indigenous Production of 100 seater Planes

1. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake Indigenous production of 100 seater passenger planes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how the cost of fuel would be met with a 100 seater passenger plane; and

(d) the number of aircraft proposed to be manufactured and the factory that will manufacture the aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) The programme of indigenous production of 100 seater passenger aircraft is still in the stage of conceptualization.

Corporatization of airports

2. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved corporatization of the airports and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of airports which are likely to be corporatized during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has decided to corporatise the airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and the new airport to be constructed at Bangalore. AAI is in the process of appointing financial and legal consultants to advice AAI on the modalities and extent of private sector participation and related issues.

Foreign participation in management of Airports

3. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a

decision that ten international airports in the country be managed by separate companies; if necessary, with foreign participation;

(b) what are the terms and conditions prescribed for the foreign participation; and

(c) the airport-wise estimated expenditure required to be incurred annually?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A decision has been taken to corporatise the airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and the new airport to be constructed at Bangalore, Airports Authority of India (AAI) is in the process of selecting financial and legal consultants to advise on the modalities of corporatisation/restructuring. It is not possible to quantify the estimated expenditure at this stage.

Implementation of the Julka Committee recommendations

4. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air Traffic Control Staff has again threatened to go on strike to press their demands for further hikes in their wages;

(b) if so, their precise demands and Government's response thereto; and

(c) whether their main demand is for implementation of the Julka Committee Report; and how far the recommendations of the Committee have been implemented and how far the same still remain to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Air Traffic Controllers Guild had sent a notice to Airports Authority of India (AAI) on January, 27, 1999 and resorted to "go slow" from February 1, 1999.

A contingency plan was prepared by the AAI. A notification under ESMA (Essential Services Maintainence Act) has been issued by the National Capital Territory of Delhi on 16.2.99 declaring air traffic services as essential services. A notification has also been issued for conferring on certain Central Government officers the power of arrest, investigation and prosecution under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act. Air Traffic Controllers Guild has given an assurance to Delhi High Court on 19.2.99 that there shall be no disruption of flight schedules. AAI has also taken strict disciplinary action by dismissing six delinquent air traffic controllers.

At present flights are operating normally.

(b) The demands of Air Traffic Controllers Guild (ATCG) are 1. Pay parity with the Pilots 2. Duty hours to be reduced from 42 hours a week to 36 hours a week, 3. Payment of Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) Duty Allowance; 4. Creation of more posts 5. Increased Human Resource Development allowance 6. Training in neighbouring countries once in two years and in a western country once in a period of 4 years. 7. Payment of higher Conveyance Allowance to Air Traffic Controllers, 8. Payment of higher Children Education Allowance, 9. Free air passage to Air Traffic Controller on domestic sectors.

The officials of the Airports Authority of India and the representatives of the ATC Guild have been meeting from time to time to amicably resolve these issues.

(c) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the Julka Committee relating to rating allowance, Flight Data Processing Allowance, On the job Training Allowance, Civil Aviation Training Centre Allowance have been accepted and implemented by AAI from November, 1997. The remaining recommendations of Julka Committee have not been accepted by AAI.

Disinvestment of shares of Air India and Indian Airlines

5. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to disinvest shares of Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) whether the shares will be given to foreign companies; and

(c) if so, the foreign companies to whom the shares will be sold?